

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Administration Building 7:00 p.m.– 9:33 p.m. March 20, 2019

Members Present:

- Mark Mirabile, Presiding Officer
- Jon Buralli
- Mary Lenzen
- Michael Rak
- Kristin Violante

Absent:

- Vipul Dedhia
- David Negron

ROLL CALL AND VISITORS

Present with Superintendent Dave Palzet were staff members Erika Sawosko, Jennifer Ban, Frank Adams, Kathleen Tomei, Debbie Lubeck, Griffin Sonntag, Brianne Malatt, Karyn Lisowski and Carrie Castaldo; Kevin Gordon, Kriha Law.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Elementary school teachers involved in co-teaching shared a video of their work and lead the pledge of allegiance.

ACTION NO. 24 Consent Agenda

Motion by Violante, seconded by Lenzen, that the Board of Education approve the amended (due to a change in a bill amount) consent agenda consisting of: regular meeting minutes of February 20, 2019; closed session meeting minutes of February 20, 2019; payment of February Payroll/March Warrants; General Counsel – Kriha Law Firm; Pleasant Dale Park District Before and After School Program Intergovernmental Agreement; FY20 Preliminary Staffing Recommendation; and March 2019 Personnel Report consisting of the retirement of Maureen Olsen and Wendy Rydberg at the end of the 2018-19 school year, Char Reschke effective January 15, 2020, Jeanne Williamson, Kristin McFadden, Judy Johnson, Kay Lewellyan and John Reid effective the end of the 2019-20 school year; resignation of Joy Tristano, resource teacher, effective April 23, 2019; extension of Fred Bell’s unpaid disability leave; honorable dismissal of Corey Gallai; and reemployment of certified personnel. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 5 ayes (Buralli, Lenzen, Mirabile, Rak, Violante) abstain – Dedhia, Negron.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Library Update

Superintendent Palzet reported over the course of the last month, the administration and our librarian met with our district architects to review the specs of the project. The bid package is expected to be completed on time which puts the project on schedule. The bid opening is scheduled for April 11th, and the Board will have the opportunity to accept the bids at the April Board of Education meeting. Our school libraries often serve as a library space for our families over the summer. With the proposed construction, we would not be able to offer this service to our families. We have been working with the LaGrange Public Library to provide temporary library services to our families, free of charge, while our school libraries undergo construction. The final plan to provide temporary library cards to our families will be on the April Board agenda for approval.

#### Strategic Blueprint Update

Dr. Palzet provided the Board an update on the focus of the Strategic Blueprint for the 2019-20 school year. Through the Strategic Blueprint, the district has updated facilities, enhanced professional development, and (most importantly) improved the student experience and student outcomes. There is great pride in the complete work, and the administration knows that true change and improvement must be sustainable. Therefore, the district will not take on new action steps for the 2019-20 school year. Instead, the plan is to take the next year to reflect on and refine the work that has been started. This does not mean we will stop the good work taking place. The administration expects to work just as hard to enhance our schools and improve what is done for kids. The goals are to ensure that the seeds we've planted take root and to perfect our current initiatives.

#### Professional Learning Update

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Ban provided the Board with an update on the district's professional learning plan. Dr. Ban stated that over the course of the year, the district has worked hard to improve our professional learning plan. Professional learning falls under the Strategic Blueprint goal of Building Human Capital, which focuses on engaging our teachers in relevant, timely, pertinent, and personalized professional development. Dr. Ban reviewed the professional learning that teachers engaged in over the course of the year including instructional coaching, math, and writing trainings. Likewise, she reviewed the professional learning plan for the summer and the 2019-20 school year. All professional learning supports the outcomes of our Strategic Blueprint.

#### FY20 Parent/Student Handbook

The Board of Education reviewed and discussed the Parent/Student Handbook. Each year, our principals meet with a committee of parents and teachers to review the parent/student handbook. The purpose of the handbook is to ensure that parents, students, and schools have clear guidelines for ensuring the success of our students. The committee's handbook suggestions included updates which reflect changes in state law and model policy. "Parent/Student Handbook Approval" will be on the consent agenda at the April Board of Education meeting.

#### Program Cost Analysis

Having a true cost accounting of our non-mandated or fee-based programs allows the Board and the administration to make good decisions about the future of these programs. Business Manager Frank Adams reviewed the cost analysis of our 1:1 student computing program.

#### Review of Board Policy 2:230 Public Participation at School Board Meetings...

In order to ensure our current Board policy on topic of public comment meets the latest updates to the open meetings act, the Board considered recommendations to policy 2:230. The changes outline the length of time a community member can speak on a given topic and the amount of time allocated to each topic.

#### School Improvement Plan Update

Principals Ms. Tomei and Mr. Sonntag updated the Board on the progress made on each schools' improvement plan. These plans support and are a reflection of our district Strategic Blueprint. Highlights of the plan include the implementation of math and writing programs, implementation of the co-teaching model, safety upgrades, and improved grade-to-grade transitions.

#### eLearning Day Review

On February 19, the district launched the first eLearning day as a way to make up one of our three school closures this year. Dr. Palzet provided the Board with background on the eLearning day, how the day was structured, and the outcomes of our stakeholder surveys

about the eLearning day. While there are some improvements that can be made to our eLearning plan, the overall perception of the day was that it was a great success. The administration plans to hold another eLearning day on April 19 and the final make-up day will be a regular school day on April 22.

Board of Education Information Requests

No requests were made at this time.

NEXT AGENDA

Items submitted for the April agenda include: Middle School Schedule Recommendation; Approve Library Bids; Discuss Summer Construction Projects; Review School Board (sec. 2) Board policies; Review of Service Provider Contracts/Bids; Approve Board Policy 2:230.

OPEN FORUM

Board member Buralli thanked Mr. Tatina and Mr. Ratcliff for the work they did on the middle school play. He also commented that the lights in front of the middle school have been flashing 24 hours a day.

Board Vice President Violante thanked Mr. Emso and Mr. Reid for the fantastic job they do coaching volleyball with the grade 7 girls finishing in 1<sup>st</sup> place and grade 8 finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

ACTION NO. 25

Closed Session

Motion by Violante, seconded by Rak, that the Board of Education go into closed session at 8:18 p.m. discuss appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees to the District; student disciplinary cases; and Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the findings shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes; Motion carried by a roll call vote of 5 ayes (Buralli, Lenzen, Mirabile, Rak, Violante) abstain – Dedhia, Negron.

The Board came out of closed session at 9:32 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Buralli, seconded by Lenzen, that the regular meeting adjourns at 9:33 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried.

App. \_\_\_ President \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary \_\_\_\_\_